

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A disc reproducing apparatus ~~having comprising:~~
a screen display control unit controlling display of a prepared screen; ~~[[,]]~~ and
a key input unit configured to be externally operated,
wherein said screen display control unit ~~comprising comprises:~~
mode setting means for setting, in accordance with externally provided
instruction information, one of a screen display mode and a screen
blanking mode; ~~[[and]]~~
control means for permitting output of a display signal to said prepared screen
when said screen display mode is set by said mode setting means and
inhibiting output of the display signal to said screen when said screen
blanking mode is set by said mode setting means, wherein said permitting
and said inhibiting are in a case where audio information is reproduced
from a disc;
key determination means for determining, when said screen blanking mode is set
and said key input unit is externally operated, a type of an operated key of
said key input unit; and
key information display means for displaying on said screen information
according to the type of the operated key determined by said key
determination means.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The disc reproducing apparatus according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein
reproduction of said audio information is discontinued according to the type of the key
determined by said key determination means.
4. (Previously Presented) The disc reproducing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the
discontinued reproduction of said audio information is resumed.

5. (Previously Presented) The disc reproducing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said instruction information is output in response to operation of a predetermined key of said key input unit.
6. (Previously Presented) The disc reproducing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said disc is a disc having only said audio information to be reproduced or a disc having said audio information and image information to be reproduced.
7. (Previously Presented) The disc reproducing apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising means for displaying a data item operated for indicating one of said screen display mode and said screen blanking mode.
8. (Previously Presented) The disc reproducing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said disc is a disc having only said audio information to be reproduced or a disc having said audio information and image information to be reproduced.
9. (Previously Presented) The disc reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, further having a key input unit that is externally operated, wherein said instruction information is output in response to operation of a predetermined key of said key input unit.
10. (Previously Presented) The disc reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for displaying a data item operated for indicating one of said screen display mode and said screen blanking mode.
11. (Previously Presented) The disc reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said disc is a disc having only said audio information to be reproduced or a disc having said audio information and image information to be reproduced.
12. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling display of a prepared screen during reproduction of a disc, the method comprising:

setting one of a screen display mode and a screen blanking mode in accordance with externally provided instruction information;
permitting output of a display signal to said prepared screen when said screen display mode is set in said mode-setting step; [[and]]
inhibiting output of the display signal to said screen when said screen blanking mode is set in said mode-setting step;
determining, when said screen blanking mode is set and a key input unit is externally operated, a type of an operated key of said key input unit; and
displaying on said screen information according to the type of the operated key determined by said key determination means,
wherein said permitting and said inhibiting are in a case where audio information is reproduced from said disc.